IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for determining lymphocyte diversity in a subject, said method comprising

a) providing:

i) labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules from a population of said subject's lymphocytes, wherein each of said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecule encodes a lymphocyte receptor or a portion thereof,

ii) a population of nucleic acid molecules, wherein said population of nucleic acid molecules comprises random nucleic acid molecules or unselected express sequence tags, and

iii) a standard curve generated by hybridizing said population of nucleic acid molecules with two or more different samples each containing a known number of variant nucleic acid molecules, wherein said standard curve provides the frequency of hybridization versus the number of variants present;

b) hybridizing said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules or fragments of said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules with [[a]] said population of ~~random~~ nucleic acid molecules; ~~and~~

c) ~~determining lymphocyte diversity of said subject by~~ assessing hybridization of said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules with said population of ~~random~~ nucleic acid molecules to determine the frequency of hybridization, and

d) comparing said frequency of hybridization to said standard curve in order to quantify the amount lymphocyte diversity in said subject.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~random~~ nucleic acid molecules within said population are attached to a solid substrate.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said solid substrate is a multiwell plate or membrane, a glass slide, a chip, or a bead.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said solid substrate is a bead.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein hybridization is assessed by flow cytometry.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said solid substrate comprises a plurality of discrete regions, wherein each of said discrete regions comprises a different random nucleic acid molecule.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules are labeled with a fluorochrome.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said fluorochrome is fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC), phycoerythrin (PE), allophycocyanin (APC), or peridinin chlorophyll protein (PerCP).

9. (withdrawn; currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules are labeled with biotin.

10. (withdrawn; currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules are labeled with an enzyme.

11-12. (cancelled)

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said population of lymphocytes are T lymphocytes.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules encode a variable region from a T cell receptor.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules encode a complementarity determining region (CDR) 3 β chain polypeptide.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said population of lymphocytes are B lymphocytes.

17. (withdrawn; currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said labeled ~~RNA~~ nucleic acid molecules encode a variable region from a heavy chain or a light chain.

18-50. (cancelled)

51. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said labeled nucleic acid molecules comprise labeled RNA molecules.

52. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein said labeled nucleic acid molecules comprise labeled DNA molecules.